CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of IFN-γ, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

2. A method of increasing the probability of survival of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of IFN-γ, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

3. A method of reducing the risk of death of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of IFN-γ, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

4. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising the steps of (a) ascertaining that the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value and (b) administering to the patient an effective amount of IFN-γ.

5. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of IFN-γ, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 30% of the predicted normal value.

6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 48 weeks.

7. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 60 weeks.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about one year.

9. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 70 weeks.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 93 weeks.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of at least about 2 years.

12. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for the remainder of the patient's life.

13. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the method further comprises administering a corticosteroid to the individual.

14. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered in a dose of about 80 $\mu g/m^2$ to about 90 $\mu g/m^2$.

15. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered in a dose of about 200 μg.

16. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered three times weekly.

17. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein IFN-γ is administered by subcutaneous administration.

18. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising administering to the patient an amount of IFN-γ effective to reduce the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient.

19. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising administering to the patient an amount of IFN-γ effective to reduce the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value.

20. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising administering to the patient an amount of IFN-γ effective to reduce the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DLCO) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

21. A method of treating a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), comprising administering to the patient an amount of IFN-γ effective to reduce the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DLCO) that is at least about 30% of the predicted normal value.

22. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein the IPF disease event-related hospital admissions are admissions based at least in part upon a respiratory event.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the respiratory event is a respiratory infection.

24. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 48 weeks.

25. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 60 weeks.

26. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about one year.

27. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 70 weeks.

28. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of about 93 weeks.

29. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for a period of at least about 2 years.

30. The method of any one of claims 17-21, wherein IFN-γ is administered to the patient for the remainder of the patient's life.

31. A kit comprising:

(a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and

(b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration to the patient of the amount of IFN-γ in order to effect the clinical outcome of a reduction in the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient.

32. A kit comprising:

(a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and

(b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration to the patient of the amount of IFN-γ in order to effect the clinical outcome of a reduction in the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value.

33. A kit comprising:

(a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and

(b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration to the patient of the amount of IFN-γ in order to effect the clinical outcome of a reduction in the aggregate length of hospital stays due to IPF disease event-related hospital admissions experienced by the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

34. A kit comprising:

(a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and

(b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ to the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

35. A kit comprising:

(a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and (b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ to the patient in order to effect the clinical outcome of an increase in the probability of survival of the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

36. A kit comprising: (a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and (b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ to the patient in order to effect the clinical outcome of a reduction in the risk of death of the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 35% of the predicted normal value.

37. A kit comprising: (a) a container comprising an amount of IFN-γ for the treatment of a patient suffering from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF); and (b) a label comprising printed instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ to the patient in order to effect the clinical outcome of a reduction in the risk of death of the patient, where the patient has a forced vital capacity (FVC) that is at least about 55% of the predicted normal value and/or has a carbon monoxide diffusing capacity (DL_{CO}) that is at least about 30% of the predicted normal value.

38. A kit according to any one of claims 31-37, wherein the label further comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ to the patient for a period of about 48 weeks.

39. A kit according to any one of claims 31-37, wherein the label comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ for a period of about 60 weeks.

40. A kit according to any one of claims 31-37, wherein the label comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ for a period of about one year.

41. A kit according to any one of claims 31-37, wherein the label comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ for a period of about 70 weeks.

42. A kit according to any one of claims 31-37, wherein the label comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ for a period of about 93 weeks.

43. A kit according to any one of claims 31-37, wherein the label comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ for a period of at least about 2 years.

44. A kit according to any one of claims 29-35, wherein the label comprises instructions for the administration of the amount of IFN-γ for the remainder of the patient's life.